What is Claimed is:

1. A wildlife guard for live electrical power equipment to prevent wildlife from simultaneously contacting an electrically energized surface and an electrically grounded surface, which wildlife guard comprises:

an arcuate collar having a peripheral surface and defining a central geometric axis; and

an array of petals carried on said arcuate collar extending radially outward relative to said peripheral surface, each of said petals being pivotally displaceable from a first position in which each of said petals is substantially coincident with a plane that is perpendicular to said geometric axis and extends through said collar to a second position that is oblique to said plane.

2. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 1, wherein each of said petals is biased to said first position.

3. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 2, wherein each of said petals is biased to said first position by means of at least one spring.

4. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 3, wherein said at least one spring is interpositioned between said collar and a petal.

5. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 4, wherein said at least one spring has at least an axial portion thereof fixed to said collar and at least a second axial portion thereof is fixed to one of said petals.

6. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 2, wherein each of said petals is biased to said first position by means of at least two springs.

7. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 1, further including at least one arcuate shoe supported by said collar and disposed radially inwardly thereto.

8. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 7, further including at least a second shoe supported by said collar and disposed radially inwardly thereto.

9. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 8, wherein said first shoe and said second shoe are disposed in opposed relationship.

10. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 1, wherein said arcuate collar extends through an arc that is less than 360 degrees.

11. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 10, wherein the arcuate collar has extremities that define a throat which subtends an angle of approximately 45 degrees.

12. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 1, wherein each of said petals has an upper face that is generally planar.

13. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 1, wherein each of said petals carried on said arcuate collar is disposed in closely spaced relationship to at least one other petal.

14. A wildlife guard for live electrical power equipment to prevent wildlife from simultaneously contacting an electrically energized surface and an electrically grounded surface, which comprises:

an arcuate collar having a peripheral surface and defining a plane and a geometric axis that is perpendicular to said plane; and

an array of petals carried on said arcuate collar extending radially outward relative to said peripheral surface, each of said petals being pivotally displaceable from a first position in which each of said petals is substantially coincident with said plane to a second position that is oblique to said plane, each of said petals carried on said arcuate collar being disposed in closely spaced relationship to at least one other petal and each of said petals having a face that is generally planar.

15. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 14, wherein each of said petals is biased to a position that is substantially coincident with said plane.

16. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 15, wherein each of said petals is biased to a position that is substantially coincident with said plane by means of at least one spring.

17. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 14, further including a pair of opposed arcuate shoes supported by said collar and disposed radially inwardly from said collar.

18. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 17, further comprising a spring for biasing each shoe inwardly away from said collar.

19. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 18, wherein said first shoe and said second shoe each are mounted to said collar by at least one coil spring.

20. The wildlife guard in accordance with claim 19, wherein the arcuate collar has extremities that define a throat that is dimensioned and configured for passing around apparatus to be protected.

21. A power distribution system comprising:

a transformer for an electrical power supply having an insulated bushing defining an axis and extending axially from the top surface thereof; and

a wildlife guard to prevent wildlife from simultaneously contacting an electrically energized surface and an electrically grounded surface of said transformer comprising an arcuate member having a peripheral surface and defining a plane that is perpendicular to said axis, an array of petals carried on said arcuate member extending radially outward from said peripheral surface, each of said petals being pivotally displaceable from a first position in which each of said petals is substantially coincident with said plane and a second position that is oblique to said plane and further including at least one shoe mounted to said member and dimensioned and configured for engagement with said insulated bushing.

22. The system in accordance with claim 21, wherein there are two shoes disposed in opposed relationship.

23. The system in accordance with claim 22, wherein said shoes are biased into engagement with said insulated bushing.

24. The system in accordance with claim 21, wherein each of said petals is biased to a position that is substantially coincident with said plane.

25. The system in accordance with claim 21, wherein said arcuate member extends through an arc that is less than 360 degrees.

26. The system in accordance with claim 21, wherein said arcuate member has extremities that define a throat that is dimensioned and configured for passing around a part of said bushing.

27. The system in accordance with claim 21, wherein each of said petals carried on said arcuate member is disposed in closely spaced relationship to at least one other petal.